

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:  
detecting attachment of a shared resource to a server;  
automatically querying if the shared resource is associated with a share indicator stored at the shared resource server;  
applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at the shared resource server; and  
if the share indicator is stored separate from the shared resource is ~~unassociated with the share indicator~~, automatically creating a share file for the share indicator at the server that enables identification of the shared resource, and automatically allocating sharing of the ~~unassociated~~ shared resource.
2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein querying further comprises:  
determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource; and  
determining if a share file is in the share directory.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein queuing further comprises:  
determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory; and  
validating a checksum in the checksum file.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
creating a share indicator on the shared resource if the share indicator is not present.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein creating comprises:  
creating a share directory on the shared resource; and  
creating a share file in the share directory.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein creating further comprises:

creating a checksum file in the share directory; and  
writing a checksum in the checksum file.

7. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:

detecting attachment of a shared resource to a server;  
automatically querying if the shared resource is associated with a share indicator stored at the shared resource server;

applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at the shared resource server; and

if the share indicator is stored separate from the shared resource ~~is unassociated with the share indicator~~, automatically creating a share file for the share indicator at the server that enables identification of the shared resource, and automatically allocating sharing of the ~~unassociated~~ shared resource.

8. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 7 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource; and  
determining if a share file is in the share directory.

9. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 8 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory; and  
validating a checksum in the checksum file.

10. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 7 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

creating a share indicator on the shared resource if the share indicator is not present.

11. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 10 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:  
creating a share directory on the shared resource; and creating a share file in the share directory.

12. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 11 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:  
creating a checksum file in the share directory; and  
writing a checksum in the checksum file.

13. (Currently amended) A system comprising:  
a processor;  
a non-volatile storage unit coupled to the processor, the non-volatile storage unit to store a descriptor table having an entry identifying share allocation for a known storage free device; and  
a memory coupled to the processor to store a shared resource table to identify share allocation of shared devices coupled to the system, wherein if an unknown storage free device is coupled to the system, the processor automatically creates a share file in the shared resource table that enables identification and automatically allocates sharing of the unknown storage free device.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:  
a writable shared resource coupled to the processor, the writable shared resource containing a share directory.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 14 wherein the share directory contains:  
a share file; and  
a check sum file.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13 wherein the processor ages out the entry if the known device is not present for a period of time.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:  
a read only shared resource wherein the processor detects connection of the read only shared resource and automatically adds an entry to the descriptor table responsive to the connection.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:  
a writable shared resource wherein the processor detects connection of the writable shared resource and automatically adds an entry to the shared resources table responsive to the connection.

19. (Currently amended) A method comprising:  
maintaining a descriptor table on a server in a non-volatile memory for a plurality of known devices;  
detecting attachment of a device to the server;  
determining if the device is one of the plurality of known devices;  
applying a share allocation from the descriptor table upon attachment if the device is one of the plurality of known devices; and  
if the device is determined to be an unknown device, automatically creating a share indicator on the unknown device and a corresponding share entry in the descriptor table that enables identification and automatically allocating sharing of the unknown device.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 further comprising:  
aging out entries from the descriptor table after a corresponding known device has been detached for a period of time.